

**Public Services Committee
July 17, 2019
City Hall
326 Grant Street**

Public Services Committee Members Present: Juan Topete, Ed Barlow, James Harrison, and Mike Daugherty.

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Tom Short, Mark Peterson, and Lorie Neubert.

Non-Members Present: Ceri Otero, Darren Collier, and Chanti Beckham.

At 5:30 PM Mr. Topete called the meeting to order.

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve minutes from the May 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Citizen Participation:

Mr. Collier requests information about where the City is at with the lighting for the walking track at Fair Acres. Mr. Collier states that the track is also in need of sealing. Mr. Peterson requests the \$28,000 budgeted for a new Parks truck be freed up for purchasing lights for the east and west side around the Fair Acres walking track. Cost of the lighting will be \$25,000 to \$30,000.

New Business:

1. Consider and discuss HERE4CARTHAGE request for space for community gardens:

Chanti Beckham from HERE4CARTHAGE addressed the committee about the foundation's plan for community gardens within Carthage. The foundation has been awarded grant money for projects over a 3 year period in which they are now in the 2nd year. They are wanting to get started with the gardens but are in need of sites. Vacant lots? Current parks? Ms. Beckham likes the south side of Central Park for a potential space. Ms. Beckham also suggested Fairview and Columbian schools as a space with the benefit of education of the children in food sustainability and gardening. Ms. Beckham states that they would like to start out with 1 garden using raised beds and see how it does before seeking more space for gardens. Many different sites were discussed. Ms. Beckham requests a list of the vacant lots that the City owns. Gardens will need volunteers to maintain after planting, a water supply, and a potential space for offering the produce grown to the public. Much of the produce will be donated to food pantries, schools, etc... Ms. Beckham states that the program will end for the foundation in 2021 at which point the City would have to take over the care of the gardens. Committee would like to see more information from Ms. Beckham as to what that would entail after the foundation's participation ends.

2. Consider and discuss draft for RFP Parks master plan:

Mr. Peterson reports that he has been working with Dick Horton on a draft of the RFP for the master plan for the Parks. Mr. Peterson reports that he would like to seek grant funding from the McCune Brooks Foundation and Steadley for the projects recommended in the master plan. Best case scenario would be each of them granting 1/3 of the cost of the project with the City picking up the other 1/3. Mr. Harrison states he would like Mr. Peterson to look at a draft he has of the City of Republic's master plan. Mr. Daugherty wants to make sure that if the City spends the money for a master plan, that the City see the plan to fruition. Mr. Peterson stresses that he would like to focus on what the community wants to see in the Parks. The completed RFP should be ready in a month. Mr. Harrison and Mr. Topete commended Mr. Peterson for the job he has done so far as the Park Director.

Staff Reports**City Administrator Tom Short**

Mr. Short reports that June rounds at the golf course are up 3.4% over projected for the year. Mr. Harrison requests to know what the trend for golf is nationally. Mr. Short reports that new awnings have been installed at Memorial Hall.

Park & Recreation Director Mark Peterson

Mr. Peterson reports that he is trying to fill the Golf Course Superintendent position. He has interviewed 2 qualified candidates and will be making a decision soon. Many park projects are finishing up or getting started. The Public Works Department will soon be starting work on the parking lot at Memorial Hall. Mr. Barlow states that the fencing at Central Park looks really nice. Mr. Daugherty says he attended Food Truck Friday this month and was pleased to see all the food trucks and people in attendance.

Mr. Topete suggests Mr. Peterson host a tour of the golf course for the Public Services Committee Members.

Mr. Daugherty moved for adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.